Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for use in a switching network of a telecommunication system, said apparatus including:

a plurality of transcoding units (TRAU) for encoding and decoding data, including speech data, wherein said plurality of transcoding units are for operating in tandem-free operation (TFO) mode;

switching means adapted to switch data, including speech data, through said plurality of transcoding units, and

a transcoder controller for controlling said switching means and said plurality of transcoding units, wherein said transcoder controller is adapted for:

instructing said switching means to insert one of said plurality of transcoding units into a data path associated with a connection between a mobile terminal of said telecommunication system and said switching network,

determining that a switching controller associated with the switching means is transparently through-connecting the data, wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to remove ~~eliminate~~ said one of said plurality of transcoding units ~~at least one transcoding unit~~ from said data path.

2.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 1, further including:

a plurality of TCME units for performing TFO-specific circuit multiplication operations wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct said switching means to insert one of said plurality of TCME units into said data path, and

wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to remove ~~eliminate~~ said one of said plurality of TCME units from said data path.

3.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to determine whether a switching controller of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection, and

wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to remove said one of said plurality of ~~eliminate at least one of said~~ transcoding units from said data path, if said switching controller does not intend to add supplementary services.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to insert one of said plurality of transcoding units into said data path, if said switching controller intends to add supplementary services.

5.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to determine whether or not a switching controller of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection, and

wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to remove ~~eliminate~~ said one of said plurality of transcoding units ~~at least one transcoding unit~~ as well as said one of said plurality of TCME units from said data path, if said switching controller does not intend to add supplementary services.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to insert one of said plurality of transcoding units as well as one of said plurality

of TCME units into said data path, if said switching controller intends to add supplementary services.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to determine, based on an evaluation of locally available information, whether or not a switching controller of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said locally available information includes results of a supervision of inputs and outputs of said apparatus.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said locally available information includes results of a supervision of reports from said one of said plurality of transcoding units and said plurality of TCME units.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said locally available information includes information received from said switching controller.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said information received from said switching controller includes port address information.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 11, further including at least one protocol/interface conversion unit for performing protocol conversion operations between different interfaces, wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to insert one of said at least one protocol/interface conversion unit into said data path.

13.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus according to claim 12, further including at least one link supervision function unit for monitoring TFO protocol wherein said transcoder controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to insert one of said at least one link supervision function unit into said data path.

14.   (Currently Amended)   A TCME head apparatus for use in a switching network of a telecommunication system, said TCME head apparatus including:

a plurality of TCME units for performing TFO-specific circuit multiplication operations

switching means adapted to switch data through said plurality of TCME units,

a TCME head controller for controlling said switching means and said plurality of TCME units, wherein said TCME head controller is adapted for:

instructing said switching means to insert one of said plurality of TCME units into a data path associated with a connection between a mobile terminal of said telecommunication system and said switching network:

determining that a switching controller associated with the switching means is transparently through-connecting the data, wherein said TCME head controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to remove ~~eliminate~~ said one of said plurality of TCME units from said data path.

15.   (Currently Amended)   The TCME head apparatus according to claim 14,

wherein said TCME head controller is adapted to determine whether or not a switching controller of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection, and

wherein said TCME head controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to remove ~~eliminate~~ said one of said plurality of TCME units from

said data path, if said switching controller does not intend to add supplementary services.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The TCME head apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said TCME head controller is adapted to instruct, during said connection, said switching means to insert one of said plurality of TCME units into said data path, if said switching controller intends to add supplementary services.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The TCME head apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said TCME head controller is adapted to determine, based on an evaluation of locally available information, whether or not a switching controller of said switching network intends to add supplementary services during said connection.